

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 03130 280838Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ST-01 /010 W
-----280846Z 007614 /14

R 271650Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6781
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 3130

DEPT. FOR AF/EX; LAGOS FOR WACASC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TQGS: AFSP
SUBJECT: WACASC SERVICES

REF: STATE 310840

1. BASED ON ITS CENTRAL LOCATION, ABIDJAN WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE FIRST CHOICE AS AN ALTERNATE WACASC SITE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO BASIS FOR JUDGEMENT ON LONG-RANGE STABILITY(POST-HOUPHOUET) OF GOVERNMENT, FREQUENCY OF U.S. SHIPPING, OR CUSTOMS PROBLEMS.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT CENTRALLY LOCATED AND CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS WITH CUSTOMS, DAKAR IS OUR SECOND CHOICE BECAUSE OF THE FREQUENCY OF INCOMING U.S. SHIPPING.

3. BOTH ABIDJAN AND DAKAR CAN TAKE ANY SIZE AIRCRAFT.

4. ASSUMING EMBASSY DAKAR CAN RESOLVE THE CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH KENEGALESE CUSTOMS, THE ONLY FORESEEABLE PROBLEM FOR EITHER ABIDJAN OR DAKAR IS THE POSSIBILITY OF UNSTABLE POLITICAL CONDITIONS WHEN THEIR RESPECTIVE AGED
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LEADERS PASS AWAY.

5. ABIDJAN OFFERS ADDITIONAL INDUCEMENT: SINCE ABIDJAN IS HEADQUARTERS OF AIR AFRIQUE, IT WOULD PERMIT WACASC TO EXPLORE IN DEPTH DESIRABILITY, FEASIBILITY AND COST OF REPLACING PRESENT UNRELIABLE AIR CHARTER

CONTRACTOR WITH THE NEW, POSSIBLY JET, AIRCRAFT OF AIR
AFRIQUE FREIGHTER FLEET. PROXIMITY TO TOP MANAGEMENT OF
AIR AFRIQUE WOULD ALSO PERMIT CLOSE MONITORING OF CON-
TRACTOR PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION IF NEEDED.
HANDYSIDE

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